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Commission on Sustainable Development
Seventh session
19–30 April 1999
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Sectoral theme: oceans and seas.
4. Cross-sectoral theme: consumption and production patterns, including recommendations for sustainable consumption for inclusion in the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/53.
5. Economic sector/major group: tourism.
6. Comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.
7. Initiation of preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on issues related to the sectoral theme: energy.
8. High-level meeting.
9. Other matters.
10. Provisional agenda of the eighth session of the Commission.
11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventh session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman and

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such other officers as may be required. At its first and second sessions, the Commission elected, in addition to a Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, one of whom served also as Rapporteur.

In resolution 1997/63, the Council decided on the following future arrangements for the election of the Bureau of the Commission in order to implement the provisions of paragraph 136 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21:

"(a) The Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, will hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new chairman and other members of the bureau in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council;

"...

"(c) The terms of office of the members of the Commission will begin immediately after the conclusion of work of the Commission's regular session held after 1 January, following their election by the Council (at its resumed organizational session of the previous year) and will end at the conclusion of the regular session held after 1 January following the election of the States that are to succeed them as members of the Commission, unless they are re-elected".

On 1 May 1998, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Simon Upton (New Zealand) Chairman, and Tibor Farago (Sweden) and George Talbot (Guyana) Vice-Chairmen. It postponed to a later session the election of the two remaining Vice-Chairmen.

Pursuant to Council decision 1998/223 of 23 July 1998, in which the Council authorized the Commission to convene an organizational meeting in 1998 for the sole purpose of electing the two remaining Vice-Chairmen of the Bureau of its seventh session, the Commission met on 27 July and elected by acclamation Largaton Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire) and Navid Hanif (Pakistan). The Commission agreed that Mr. Ouattara would also serve as Rapporteur of the Commission.

The membership of the Commission at its seventh and eighth sessions is given in annex II below.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

In its decision 1998/217 of 23 July 1998, the Council took note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixth session and endorsed the provisional agenda for the seventh session.

3. Sectoral theme: oceans and seas

At its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly stressed the need to continue to improve decision-making on the marine environment at the national, regional and global levels; to address that need, there was an urgent need for Governments to implement decision 4/15 of the Commission, in which the Commission, *inter alia*, called for a periodic intergovernmental review by the Commission of all aspects of the marine environment and its related issues, as described in chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and for which the overall legal framework was provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 36).

In accordance with the Commission's multi-year programme of work for the period 1998–2002, an inter-sessional ad hoc working group considered the theme oceans and seas prior to the Commission's consideration of the theme at its seventh session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on oceans and seas (E/CN.17/1999/4 and Add.1)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Oceans and Seas and on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/17)

4. Cross-sectoral theme: consumption and production patterns, including recommendations for sustainable consumption for inclusion in the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/53

In accordance with the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998–2002, the cross-sectoral theme for the seventh session is consumption and production patterns.

In addition, in its decision 1998/215 of 23 July 1998, the Council invited the Bureau of the Commission to organize, within existing resources, open-ended consultations among States and to report thereon to the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group for its consideration, having regard to the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.17/1998/5); and requested the Commission to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999 on guidelines for sustainable consumption.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing a comprehensive review of changing consumption and production patterns (E/CN.17/1999/2)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Consumption and Production Patterns and on Tourism (E/CN.17/1999/16)

Expansion of the United Nations guidelines for consumer protection to include sustainable consumption: draft resolution (E/CN.17/1999/L.1)

5. Economic sector/major group: tourism

At its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly stressed the need to consider further the importance of tourism in the context of Agenda 21; tourism, like other sectors, used resources, generated waste and created environmental, cultural and social costs and benefits in the process; policy development and implementation should take place in cooperation with all interested parties, especially the private sector and local and indigenous communities; the Commission should develop an action-oriented international programme of work on sustainable tourism, to be defined in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization and other relevant bodies (resolution S-19/2, annex, paras. 68 and 69).

In the multi-year programme of work for the Commission for the period 1998–2002, the General Assembly suggested that the Commission strengthen its interaction with representatives of major groups, including through greater and better use of focused dialogue sessions and round tables; the major groups were encouraged to adopt arrangements for coordination and interaction in providing inputs to the Commission (resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 133 (e)).

In the light of the above, the Bureau of the seventh session of the Commission, after consultations with delegations and major groups, decided to hold, at the seventh session, a multi-stakeholder dialogue on tourism. This would involve an interactive dialogue on the matter between delegations, partners from major groups (business and industry, workers and trade unions, local authorities and non-governmental organizations) and international organizations. Based on previous experience, the Bureau was of the view that, to ensure maximum participation, no other meetings should be held in parallel.

As at the sixth session, the dialogue will be held between 19 and 21 April 1999 (four meetings). Emphasis is placed on high-level representation and on the need for balanced representation of major groups from both developed and developing countries.

The Bureau also agreed that the discussions on tourism at the seventh session should yield tangible results ensuring active follow-up work after its conclusion in order to promote principles and practices of sustainable tourism. It was felt that expected outcomes of the seventh session regarding possible activities leading to or during the International Year of Eco-Tourism in 2002 could provide a helpful framework for ensuring such a follow-up. This approach would also be consistent with the decision of the General Assembly that the commission should develop an action-oriented international programme of work on sustainable tourism, as mentioned above.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on tourism and sustainable development (E/CN.17/1999/5 and Add.1–3)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Consumption and Production Patterns and on Tourism (E/CN.17/1999/16)

6. Comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

In accordance with the decision taken by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, which the Assembly subsequently reaffirmed in its resolutions 52/202 and 53/189, a full and comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, consistent with the review of the outcome of other United Nations global conferences, is scheduled for September 1999, in the form of a two-day special session. In accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 53/189, the Commission will act as the preparatory body for the special session.

Preparations for the special session were started at the session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Oceans and Seas and on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It was agreed by the Working Group that the Co-Chairmen would continue to conduct informal consultations in preparation of the seventh session on the basis of the work done by the Working Group, and that they would issue a revised text of their proposal on the contribution of the Commission to the special session based on their original proposals, comments made during the meetings and subsequent proposals to be submitted by delegations.

The Commission will hold a preparatory meeting for the special session at the end of its seventh session. At the preparatory meeting, the Commission will make recommendations to the Assembly at its special session on organizational arrangements and finalize the draft text referred to above for adoption by the Assembly at that session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/6 and Add.1–16)

Report of the Secretary-General on current donor activities in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States (E/CN.17/1999/17)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Oceans and Seas and on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/17)

Report of the Secretary-General on the meeting of representatives of donors and small island developing States, New York, 24–26 February 1999 (E/CN.17/1999/18)

7. Initiation of preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on issues related to the sectoral theme: energy

At its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly decided, *inter alia*, that there was a need for a movement towards sustainable patterns of production, distribution and use of energy. To advance that work at the intergovernmental level, the Commission would discuss energy issues at its ninth session; noting, however, the vital role of energy in the continuation of sustained economic growth, especially for developing countries, be they importers or suppliers of energy, and recognizing the complexities and interdependencies inherent in addressing energy issues within the context of sustainable development, the General Assembly was of the view that preparations for the ninth session should be initiated at the seventh session (resolution S-19/8, annex para. 46 (a)).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on preparatory modalities for the discussion on energy and sustainable development at the ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.17/1999/8)

8. High-level meeting

In its resolution 47/191, the General Assembly recommended that the Commission adopt at its first session a multi-year thematic programme of work, including a high-level meeting, with ministerial participation, to have an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda 21, to consider emerging policy issues and to provide necessary political impetus to the implementation of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the commitments contained therein.

At its first session, the Commission decided that, as a rule, its high-level meetings should last for a period of up to three days and that they should be integral parts of the session of the Commission and of its decision-making process. The organization of work of the high-level meetings should provide, *inter alia*, for an open exchange of views among the participants and for holding informal meetings, as the need arose, to resolve outstanding issues relating to its work that required high-level consideration. The result of the meeting may be a concise document, should the participants deem that appropriate.

At its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly recommended that the Commission, based on the experience gained during the period 1993–1997 and under the guidance of the Council, make concerted efforts to attract the greater involvement in its work of ministers and high-level national policy makers responsible for specific economic and social sectors, who, in particular, were encouraged to participate in the annual high-level segment of the Commission, together with the ministers and policy makers responsible for environment

and development; the high-level segments of the Commission should become more interactive, and should focus on the priority issues being considered at a particular session; and the Bureau of the Commission should conduct timely and open-ended consultations with a view to improving the organization of the work of the high-level segment (resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 133 (a)).

Accordingly, the Bureau agreed that each of the five meetings allocated to the segment would be divided into two parts of one and a half hours each: the first for a general debate with a list of speakers and the second for interactive thematic dialogues.

The Bureau further recommended that the focus during the interactive dialogue sessions would be on the main substantive items on the agenda, that is, tourism, oceans and seas, preparations for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and consumption and production patterns. Bearing in mind the broad scope of issues related to oceans and seas, as well as the fact that tourism would be discussed during the multi-stakeholder dialogue immediately preceding the high-level segment, the Bureau decided that two meetings would be allocated to oceans and seas and one meeting to the other themes.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on emerging issues for the high-level meeting of the Commission (E/CN.17/1999/9)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Consumption and Production Patterns and on Tourism (E/CN.17/1999/16)

Report of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Group on Oceans and Seas and on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1999/17)

9. Other matters

At its nineteenth special session, the General Assembly recommended that the Commission continue to provide a forum for the exchange of national experience and best practices in the area of sustainable development, including through voluntary national communications or reports (resolution S-19/2, annex, para. 133 (b)).

In its decision 6/3, the Commission called upon the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as task manager, to further strengthen and accelerate the implementation of the work programme on education for sustainable development in cooperation with, *inter alia*, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and non-governmental organizations; and requested the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Commission at its seventh session information on progress made in implementing the work programme.

In its decision 6/2, the Commission noted the potential value of a review of voluntary initiatives and agreements to give content and direction to the dialogue between Governments and the representatives of industry, trade unions, non-governmental organizations and international organizations. As a first step, representatives of industry, trade unions and non-governmental organizations should examine voluntary initiatives and agreements to identify those elements that could be considered for the review. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat could provide assistance in this matter. Special attention should be given to the balanced involvement in the process of representatives of all major groups from developed and developing countries. The Secretariat should make the results of the review available to Governments. The

Commission invited the Department, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to examine how voluntary initiatives and agreements could contribute to the future work of the Commission, and to report on the results to the Commission at its seventh session.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, the proposed programme of work in the field of sustainable development for the biennium 2000–2001 is submitted for the consideration of the Commission. In section I, paragraph 7 of the resolution, the Assembly stressed the role of the relevant intergovernmental bodies in the consideration of the narrative of the proposed programme budget, as well as the necessity for a timely presentation of their recommendations on the budget. The Commission is invited to comment and make recommendations, as appropriate, on the proposed programme of work, bearing in mind that it will be reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, which will submit their recommendations to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on national progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 (E/CN.17/1999/10)

Report of the Secretary-General on education and sustainable development (E/CN.17/1999/11)

Report of the Secretary-General on the initial results of the review of voluntary initiatives (E/CN.17/1999/12)

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work in the field of sustainable development for the biennium 2000–2001 (E/CN.17/1999/CRP.1)

10. Adoption of the provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General shall submit a draft provisional agenda for the Commission's subsequent session, indicating in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current session.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventh session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission reports to the Council on the work of each session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

The proposed organization of work for the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development has been drawn up on the basis of informal consultations conducted by the Chairman with the Bureau.

Week of 19–23 April

Monday, 19 April		Opening of the session
a.m.	*Item 1*	Election of officers
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	Items 3–6	Presentations on the outcome of the work of the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Working Groups
p.m.	*Item 5*	Multi-stakeholder dialogue on tourism
Tuesday, 20 April		
a.m. and p.m	*Item 5*	Multi-stakeholder dialogue on tourism
Wednesday, 21 April		
a.m	*Item 5*	Multi-stakeholder dialogue on tourism
p.m.	*Item 8*	High-level meeting (Tourism and sustainable development)
Thursday, 22 April		
a.m.	*Item 8*	High-level meeting (Oceans and seas)
p.m.	*Item 8*	High-level meeting (Oceans and seas)
Friday, 23 April		
a.m.	*Item 8*	High-level meeting (Review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States)
p.m.	*Item 8*	High-level meeting (Consumption and production patterns)

Week of 26–30 April

Monday, 26 April	
a.m.	National presentations
p.m.	Work of the drafting groups*

* In accordance with the practice of the Commission, three drafting groups will be established during the seventh session, on the understanding that no more than two will meet simultaneously.

Tuesday, 27 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Work of the drafting groups
Wednesday, 28 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Work of the drafting groups
Thursday, 29 April		
a.m. and p.m.		Work of the drafting groups
Friday, 30 April		
a.m.		Work of the Commission as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly for a full and comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States
p.m.	*Item 9*	Other matters
	Item 10	Adoption of provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Commission
	Item 11	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventh session
		Closure of the seventh session
		First meeting of the eighth session (for the sole purpose of electing the Bureau for the eighth session)

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Membership at the seventh session

Algeria
Antigua and Barbuda
Belgium
Benin
Bolivia
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Central African Republic
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Djibouti
Egypt
France
Gabon
Germany
Guyana
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Japan
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mozambique
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Russian Federation
Saudi Arabia
Slovakia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Thailand
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Zimbabwe

Membership at the eighth session

Algeria
Angola
Belgium
Brazil
Bulgaria
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark*
Djibouti
Egypt
France
Germany
Guyana
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Italy
Japan
Kazakhstan
Lebanon
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mozambique
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Russian Federation
Slovakia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Tunisia
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela

* On 1 May 1999, Denmark will be replaced by Finland